



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
CREEKS RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH GOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AND REGULAR MEETING**

January 16, 2008

DAVID GEBHARD PUBLIC MEETING ROOM, 630 GARDEN STREET

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jordan called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

ROLL CALL

Creeks Advisory Committee members present: Chair Jordan, Daniel Hochman, Lee Moldaver, Jeff Phillips, Roger Schlueter, George Weber, Daniel Wilson

Creeks Advisory Committee members absent: None

Liaison members present: Park and Recreation Commissioner Beebe Longstreet

Liaison members absent: County Project Clean Water Liaison Rob Almy,
Councilmember Iya Falcone, Planning Commissioner John Jostes

Golf Advisory Committee members present: John Craig, Dave Fahrbach, Vic Giglio, Jeff Hewes, Joe Rajkovich

Staff present: Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Creeks Planner George Thomson, Water Resources Specialist Autumn Malanca, Creeks Program Assistant Liz Smith, Golf Superintendent Scott Jorgensen, Parks and Recreation Business Manager Nancy Woods, Golf Accounting Assistant Shari Staufenberg, Golf Pro Richard Chavez

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one wished to speak.

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH GOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Moldaver arrived at 5:43pm.

4. Review of Santa Barbara Golf Club Storm Water Management Project

Recommendation:

That the Committees receive a presentation on a peer review of the preliminary design plans for the Santa Barbara Golf Club Storm Water Management Project.

Documents:

Staff Report – January 2008
Staff Report – July 2002
Staff Report – November 2005

Speakers:

George Thomson, Creeks Planner
Craig Campbell, Principal, Wallace Group

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee Members asked questions regarding the quantity of water the detention basin in Alternative 3 would hold back in a 100 year storm; aesthetics of the area where eucalyptus trees would be removed; the capacity of the drain flowing under Earl Warren Showgrounds; where water in the basin is collected from; and, what changes would take place at the swale labeled E-4 and whether ease of maintenance would be improved.

Mr. Campbell reported that depending on the alternative chosen, the outflow of the East Basin in a 100 year storm event would be between 100cfs and 150cfs; the area of eucalyptus removal would be replanted with trees and turf and would look similar to existing conditions, but with more contoured terrain; the basin receives water from areas of the golf course, the Samarkand neighborhood across Las Positas Road, and Adams School; and, swale E-4 would be re-engineered and re-planted to be more stair-stepped and natural looking, with no significant increase in maintenance requirements.

Committee Members asked questions regarding whether there is the possibility to collaborate with Adams School on a project for the drainage swale on the school property.

Mr. Thomson reported that the Creeks Division is actively pursuing a collaboration with Adams School, and writing grants to provide funding for teachers to be involved in the project.

Committee Members suggested that in areas where slopes were increased and areas may remain wet for longer periods, the issue of liability should be taken into consideration; and, that any sort of staircase or ramp down a slope should be aesthetically pleasing.

Committee Members asked questions regarding whether the junction of the swales labeled E-1, E-2, and E-3 would serve better as a small pond;

the difference between a biopond and a basin; and, what the advantage of having two basins is compared to the previous plan's single basin.

Mr. Campbell reported that a small entry pond to accept swale runoff is one of their recommendations for the confluence of the three swales, and that they will attempt to consolidate collection points for maintenance staff to pick up debris; a biopond is designed to biologically treat contaminants and store water for a longer period of time, while a detention basin serves as a flood control facility, holding back storm flow and releasing it slowly the same day as a storm; and, that splitting the original single basin into two will provide more percolation due to the increased surface area.

Mr. Chavez suggested that the area of Basin 3 is completely out of play and would serve as a better spot than Basins 1 or 2 to store water for an extended time, and that "Basin 4" on the 17th fairway is in play.

Mr. Jorgensen noted that the golf course is trying to build up the area nearest the bioswales and ponds labeled W-1 for the Audubon program, and that the project site being as wild as possible will help to deter golfers from going into that area.

Mr. Campbell noted that Basin 4 is basically a "non-project" that already functions as a detention area and is not designed to retain water; and, that bioswales planned for W-1 would be 8-12 feet wide and very shallow, and that the runoff in the area is high in nitrogen and plant material would be beneficial.

Committee Members asked questions regarding whether the cost estimates include a long-term maintenance cost; whether runoff from Las Positas flows into the East Basin; Wallace Group's previous experience with golf course management's ability to maintain gates; whether they have done any modeling or projections on how fast basins would silt up; how often the golf course will be impacted by areas of standing water; and, what the educational costs entail.

Mr. Campbell reported that the cost estimates only include the construction costs; that runoff from Las Positas as well as the golf course ends up in the East Basin; that previous experience has shown that it typically takes golf course maintenance approximately one year to fine tune the maintenance of the operable gates; that they have not calculated the amount of sediment that would end up in basins, but that the ponds will be built with a collection point to make maintenance easier; that in response to Committee suggestions they will explore maximizing Basin 3 as an ideal site for water retention; and, that educational costs primarily consist of interpretive signage.

Committee Members suggested building golf aesthetics and playability issues into the cost benefit table; ranking projects based on how they would be a plus or minus from a golf standpoint; building the maintenance costs into the cost benefit table; and, providing an aerial photograph at the same scale as the plans, along with an overlay of a golf map showing what areas are in and out of play, to help evaluate plans.

Committee Members expressed concerns about the aesthetics of a trail of silt remaining down the hill between the 1st and 18th holes.

Ms. Longstreet stressed the importance of replacing mature trees that will be removed for the project, and replacing fast growing skylines wherever possible.

Committee Members noted that the trees on the 16th fairway are not for blocking balls, and that the removal of the trees will decrease debris on the course as well as allow the fairway to receive more sun.

Mr. Thomson reported that the next step in the process includes staff reviewing the written report provided by Wallace Group, then the consultant will move forward into 30% design, incorporating Committee comments and addressing issues such as aesthetics, ranking of issues, maintenance, wildlife habitat, and the project's effects downstream.

Mr. Benson reported that given the cost of the project and the likelihood that Measure B funds will be used to pay for the project, it will come back to the Committee before beginning construction.

Break and adjournment of Golf Advisory Committee at 7:37pm.

Creeks Advisory Committee reconvened at 7:40pm.

Ms. Longstreet was absent when the Committee returned from break.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

Committee members Moldaver/Hochman to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 19, 2007.

Vote:

Voice vote 5/0; Wilson and Schlueter abstained.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

Mr. Moldaver suggested that Staff place quick and important items ahead of items that may require a longer presentation and discussion at future meetings.

Mr. Benson noted that the agenda's order was set to accommodate the Golf Advisory Committee.

Mr. Hochman suggested that Staff coordinate with presenters to provide better estimates of the time required for agenda items.

COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Phillips announced that he has accepted a job outside of Santa Barbara, and that the February meeting will be his last.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER

The Committee deferred selection of a new Strategic Planning Subcommittee Member to the February meeting.

BUSINESS ITEMS

9a. Technical Guidance Manual for Post Construction Storm Water Management – Status Report

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a status report of the Technical Guidance Manual for Post Construction Storm Water Management.

Documents:

Staff Report – January 2008

Speaker:

Autumn Malanca, Creeks Water Resources Specialist

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee Members asked questions regarding the outcome of the Staff outreach to stakeholders.

Mr. Benson reported that the meetings went well, and that overall the response was very positive and constructive.

Mr. Wilson suggested products such as Aqua Blocks be included in the Manual as a treatment recommendation.

Committee Members asked questions regarding whether the City would offer incentives for property owners; how education, enforcement, and

monitoring will take place; and, whether the Manual will apply only to discretionary projects.

Ms. Malanca reported that the option of providing incentives is being discussed; and, that enforcement procedures will not change from the current system, which includes education, but monitoring procedures will need to be addressed.

Mr. Benson reported that Staff will encourage property owners to take measures voluntarily when not required, and that Staff is working with other City departments to determine appropriate thresholds for inclusion.

Committee Members asked questions regarding the awareness of the Manual on other City boards; whether Staff has coordinated with the City of Goleta and County of Santa Barbara; and, whether there is a specific percentage goal of pervious surfaces and measurable benefits to best management practices (BMPs) that can be included in the Manual's introduction.

Mr. Benson reported that Ms. Malanca has provided and will continue to provide training to City divisions, and once the Manual is complete will begin internal and external trainings on the Manual.

Ms. Malanca reported that she has worked with Ms. Kathleen Garnand of County Project Clean Water, but that the consultant has been directed to focus on the City to maximize benefits given the conditions and terrain within the City; and, that there is a national best management practices (BMP) database that has tracked specific design gains over 5-10 years.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Committee Members Hochman/Moldaver to adjourn.

Chair Jordan adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Benson
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager